

January 27, 1938.

Richard Harte,  
President, Ames Baldwin Wyoming Co.,  
Parkersburg, West Virginia.

Dear Mr. President:

I am in receipt of your letter relative to the O'Mahoney-Borah Bill.

I wonder, Mr. President, if you have read this bill, or are you taking what may have appeared in the newspapers concerning its terms?

Our purpose in this bill is to place the regulation of interstate commerce where the Constitution of the United States places it, and that is, under the Federal government. It must be conceded there must be regulation of interstate commerce and of the instrumentalities, corporations, and so forth, under which interstate commerce is carried on. The first question to be answered therefore is: Whether this regulation shall be through the laws and corporations created under the laws of forty-eight different states or under one sovereignty, the Federal government. Basically, that is what we are trying to do under this bill.

You complain there is too much regulation, and I agree with you. But, unfortunately, this regulation is forced by the conduct of some corporations which really carry on a system of bludgeoning of small corporations such as should not be tolerated in a government of order and law. I venture to say that if you will read this bill and take into consideration its main purpose instead of a general condemnation, you will in the interest of order and law seek to make such suggestions as may help to strengthen the measure rather than a wholesale attack upon it.

Very respectfully,